

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 20, 2017**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

STAFF REPORT ON THE 2016 CALIFORNIA WATER DATA CHALLENGE.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2016 California Water Data Challenge was a first of its kind collaboration between the Obama Administration's White House Council on Environmental Quality, multiple California state agencies, and non-profit organizations. Held during the fall of 2016, the challenge was designed to find new ways to maximize the impact of existing Federal and State water-related datasets. The event brought together a diverse group of participants with technical skill in coding, application development, data analysis and visualization, and water policy, who leveraged open source technology and existing water data to produce tools and applications that transform how information is accessed and used to inform decision making. Ultimately, the challenge demonstrated the potential for enhanced collaboration, transparency, and innovation to help all sectors of society find ways address our water management issues more effectively.

Staff from the State Water Board provided extensive support for the event and worked closely with staff from the White House, Government Operations Agency, Department of Technology, and Department of Water Resources, and other State Agencies to frame issues addressed by the challenge. This agenda item will include a description of the goals and outcomes of the event, a demonstration of the winning team's entry, and an outline of future plans.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. Informational item only.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. Informational item only.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. Informational item only.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

To continue to support events that highlight open data, innovation, and collaboration, and to pursue a comprehensive data management strategy for the Water Board that is consistent with the principles of open data.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. In particular, this item provides information in regards to improving data accessibility for improved planning and decision making.
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